


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: August 12, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development 
RE: Friday Report
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 8/15/11	
Tuesday 8/16/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoning Reform Group, 5:30 p.m., Room 202
Wednesday 8/17/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 203• Community Preservation Committee, 7:00 p.m., Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville (includes PUBLIC HEARING on off-cycle proposal)
Thursday 8/18/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brookline, Newton, Watertown, Waltham Homelessness Consortium, Cancelled• Chestnut Hill Historic District, Cancelled

- **Zoning Reform Group.** The Group will meet on **Tuesday, August 16th** at 5:30 p.m. in Room 202. **For more information contact Seth Zeren at 617.796.1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**
- **Urban Design Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Wednesday, August 17th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 203. The UDC will review sign proposals for signage at Sovereign Bank at **624 Washington Street**, Fiorella's Restaurant at **187 North Street**, Dunkin Donuts at **138 Needham Street**, SweetTart Frozen Yogurt at **749 Beacon Street**, Lux Couture at **3-21 Lincoln Street**, Century 21 at **60-64 Needham Street**, Bebe Spa at **80 Langley Road**, a new sign package at **870 Walnut Street**, Rox Diner at **335 Walnut Street**, Realty Executives and Newtonville Dental Associates at **701 Washington Street**, and a fence appeal at **177 Dorset Road**. **For more information contact Derek Valentine at 617.796.1123 or dvalentine@newtonma.gov.**
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The Committee's next meeting on **Wednesday, August 17th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Newton Senior Center (345 Walnut Street, Newtonville) will include a **public hearing & possible funding vote** on an off-cycle proposal for **Newton History Museum Archives construction** (\$461,602 request); discussion of a pre-proposal for affordable housing (Myrtle Village, Curve Street, West Newton; \$1,400,264 potential request); and planning for special neighborhood events in 2011-12. From www.newtonma.gov/cpa, click on 'Committees & Meetings' for full agendas or on 'Proposals & Projects' for full-text documents. For more information **contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**
- **SAVE THE DATE - FAR Informational Meeting:** The Planning and Development Department will hold an informational meeting on **Monday, September 19th** at 9:00 a.m., location to be announced, to review and answer questions about the recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts, which will **take effect October 15, 2011**. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to visit our website www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php where you'll find FAQ's, FAR calculator and more helpful information. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations. The data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15th to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at FAR@newtonma.gov or call 617.796.1120.**

- **Newton Preservation Awards Seeking Nominations:** This year marks the 4th year in which the Newton Historical Commission and Historic Newton have collaborated to operate the **Newton Preservation Awards**. If you know of a worthy project or person deserving recognition for historic preservation please complete a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 16th**. Further information can be found on the Historic Newton website here:
<http://www.newtonma.gov/jackson/news/preservation-awards.asp>.
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** The August meeting of the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission has been **cancelled**. The next filing deadline is **August 31st** and the next scheduled meeting of the Commission is **September 18th**. **Contact Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov**.
- **Brookline, Newton, Watertown Waltham Homelessness Consortium:** The Consortium meeting on August 18th has been **cancelled**. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 15. **Contact Trisha Guditz at 617.796.1156 or tguditz@newtonma.gov**.
- **Announcing the “Commercial Real Estate Connection”:** Are you a business owner looking to rent retail, office, R&D, or industrial space in Newton? Are you a property owner or broker with a space in Newton that is seeking a tenant? Are you someone who shops or works in Newton’s village centers or commercial corridors and wonders what the City can do to fill vacant storefronts? We are pleased to announce the “Commercial Real Estate Connection.” This service, which provides listings of commercial vacancies that will be updated frequently, is part of a recent overhaul of the City’s Economic Development website:
www.newtonma.gov/business. This link makes it easier for those who are unfamiliar with Newton to learn about the City’s geographic and demographic advantages, understand our unique landscape of village centers and commercial corridors, and know who to call for assistance in City Hall. **Contact Amanda Stout at 617.796.1127 or astout@newtonma.gov**.
- **Got LEED?:** The City of Newton is interested in tracking LEED-Certified construction within the City. If you know of a building that has received or is intending to receive this distinction please let us know! **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov**.
- **Department’s Weekly Report Going Green:** Over the years our Planning Department’s Weekly Report (Friday Report) has continued to grow in circulation. While we’re excited for people to read our information, we’re hoping to move to a more green distribution. Besides saving paper and postage, it also allows you to receive the information more timely. For those of you who are not currently receiving it via email and who would like to change, please let us know by sending an email to Norine Silton at nsilton@newtonma.gov. Be sure to put “Going Green” in your subject line. Thank you!

